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Field Trips

Pumice Desert

Difficulty: Easy

Distance: 1-2 miles

Length: 2.5 hours

Description: The cataclysmic eruption of Mt. Mazama left deep deposits of pumice. The Pumice Desert still has little organic matter for plants with species and growth forms more typical of alpine habitats. We will search parts of this unique terrain and bordering forest for unique species.

Munson Creek

Difficulty: Easy

Distance: 1-2 miles

Length: 2.5 hours

Description: Hike a gravel park access road to Munson Creek. Munson meanders and snakes through beautiful open meadows of grasses and wildflowers on its way to Annie Creek. We'll walk a short section of the stream searching for beetles in the meadows and stream banks.

Sun Notch, Meadows, and Creek

Difficulty: Easy

Distance: ~1 mile, relatively flat

Length: 3 hours

Description: This trip will visit a relatively diverse range of habitats within a small area. Sun Notch is a narrow glacial gap carved between Vidae Ridge and Dutton Ridge. A short loop trail gives spectacular views of the lake while passing through meadows. Sun Meadows, at the Crater Peak Trailhead is a lush green area of wildflowers with Sun Creek quietly passing through. We will also visit nearby Vidae Falls along the East Rim Drive.

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Annie Creek Canyon

Difficulty: Easy but with a short, very steep ascent and descent.

Distance: 1.7 miles

Length: 2.5 hours

Description: Descend into Annie Creek Canyon where small lush meadows, dense forest, and volcanic pinnacles border winding Annie Creek.

Boundary Springs and the National Creek Fire*

***Trip canceled due to hazard trees. The Boundary Springs trail will remain closed for 2016.**

Difficulty: Easy – Moderate, relatively flat trail with elevation range of 4,900 - 5,060 feet

Distance: 4 miles roundtrip

Length: 5 hours

Description: Boundary Springs, located in the northwest corner of the park is the source of the Rogue River. This beautiful area was burned during last summer's National Creek Fire in 2015. We will look for species that specialize in recent forest fire habitats as well as look for aquatic species during this trip.

Lightening Springs

Difficulty: Moderate

Distance: 2 miles

Length: 3.5 hours

Description: Hike down a moderately steep drainage on the flanks of Mt. Mazama to explore springs, meadows, and the remnants of the 2006 Bybee Creek Fire. We will explore a variety of habitats with amazing views of southwest Oregon.

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Sphagnum Bog

Difficulty: Moderate

Distance: 5 miles roundtrip, relatively flat

Length: 5 hours

Description: Sphagnum Bog is a perennially wet area full of rare, delicate, and unique plants including carnivorous sundew. This is an extremely sensitive site, so great care must be taken to not damage this delicate ecosystem. We will access the site from US Forest Service land on the western boundary of the park via the Crater Springs Trail. **This trip will have very limited capacity due to limit impacts on the bog.**

Garfield Peak

Difficulty: Moderate - Difficult

Distance: 2-3 miles

Length: 2 hours

Description: Although we likely will not go to the summit of Garfield Peak, we will still get exceptional views of the lake and explore some of the craggy rock outcrops, dense tree stands, and small meadows around this iconic peak. We will search for American pika and see what beetles might live in their middens, the piles of scat that accumulate over time. We will leave the trail at times to explore rock fields.

Mt. Scott

Difficulty: Moderate - Difficult

Distance: 5 miles roundtrip, 1263ft elevation gain

Length: 5 hours

Description: At 8,929 feet, Mt. Scott is the highest point in Crater Lake National Park. We will have the opportunity to sample pumice fields, meadows, forest, pika middens, and possibly snow field edges on the peaks north face if any still remains!